

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-32 (Canceled).

Claim 33 (Previously presented): A polarizing electrode for an electrical double layer capacitor, comprising:

an activated carbon;

at least one binder; and

a conductive material,

wherein the activated carbon

is obtained by subjecting an easily graphitizable carbonaceous material to an alkali activation treatment,

has an overall content of alkali metals of 60 ppm or less, and

the easily graphitizable carbonaceous material is one selected from the group consisting of a petroleum coke, a petroleum pitch, a synthetic mesophase pitch, a polyvinyl chloride, a polyimide and a polyacrylonitrile.

Claim 34 (Previously presented): The polarizing electrode according to claim 33, wherein said alkali metals comprise sodium, potassium or a mixture of sodium and potassium.

Claim 35 (Withdrawn-Currently amended): A method for manufacturing [[a]] the polarizing electrode for an electrical double layer capacitor according to claim 33, comprising:

subjecting an easily graphitizable carbonaceous material to an alkali activation treatment;

washing the alkali activation treatment product thus obtained with a liquid that contains carbonic acid;

washing the carbonic acid washed product with hydrochloric acid to give an activated carbon, and

preparing the polarizing electrode by mixing and forming the hydrochloric acid washed activated carbon, at least one binder and a conductive material.

Claim 36 (Previously presented): A polarizing electrode for an electrical double layer capacitor, comprising:

an activated carbon;

at least one binder; and

a conductive material;

wherein the activated carbon

is obtained by subjecting an easily graphitizable carbonaceous material to an alkali activation treatment,

has an overall content of heavy metals of 20 ppm or less, and

the easily graphitizable carbonaceous material is one selected from the group consisting of a petroleum coke, a petroleum pitch, a synthetic mesophase pitch, a polyvinyl chloride, a polyimide and a polyacrylonitrile.

Claim 37 (Previously presented): The polarizing electrode according to claim 36, wherein said heavy metals comprise at least one metal selected from the group consisting of nickel, copper, zinc and iron.

Claim 38 (Previously presented): The polarizing electrode according to claim 37, wherein a nickel content is 8 ppm or less.

Claim 39 (Previously presented): The polarizing electrode according to claim 37, wherein a zinc content is 1 ppm or less.

Claim 40 (Previously presented): The polarizing electrode according to claim 37, wherein a copper content is 1 ppm or less.

Claim 41 (Previously presented): The polarizing electrode according to claim 37, wherein an iron content is 0.3 ppm or less.

Claim 42 (Withdrawn-Currently amended): A method for manufacturing [[a]] the polarizing electrode for an electrical double layer capacitor according to claim 36, comprising:

subjecting an easily graphitizable carbonaceous material to an alkali activation treatment;

washing the alkali activation treatment product thus obtained with a liquid comprising a basic substance to give an activated carbon, and

preparing the polarizing electrode by mixing and forming the activated carbon, at least one binder and a conductive material, wherein

the easily graphitizable carbonaceous material is one selected from the group consisting of a petroleum coke, a petroleum pitch, a synthetic mesophase pitch, a polyvinyl chloride, a polyimide and a polyacrylonitrile.

Claim 43 (Currently amended): A polarizing electrode for an electrical double layer capacitor, comprising:

an activated carbon;

at least one binder; and

a conductive material,

wherein the activated carbon

is obtained by subjecting an easily graphitizable carbonaceous material to an alkali activation treatment,

has an overall content of heavy metals of 20 ppm or less and an overall content of alkali metals of [[60]] 200 ppm or less, and

the easily graphitizable carbonaceous material is one selected from the group consisting of a petroleum coke, a petroleum pitch, a synthetic mesophase pitch, a polyvinyl chloride, a polyimide and a polyacrylonitrile.

Claim 44 (Previously presented): The polarizing electrode according to claim 43, wherein said heavy metals comprise at least one metal selected from the group consisting of nickel, copper, zinc and iron.

Claim 45 (Previously presented): The polarizing electrode according to claim 43, wherein a nickel content is 8 ppm or less.

Claim 46 (Previously presented): The polarizing electrode according to claim 43, wherein an iron content is 0.3 ppm or less.

Claim 47 (Previously presented): The polarizing electrode according to claim 43, wherein a zinc content is 0.3 ppm or less.

Claim 48 (Previously presented): The polarizing electrode according to claim 43, wherein a copper content is 1 ppm or less.

Claim 49 (Previously presented): The polarizing electrode according to claim 43, wherein said alkali metals are sodium, potassium or a mixture of sodium and potassium.

Claim 50 (Previously presented): The polarizing electrode according to claim 43, further comprising a silver content of 0.1 ppm or less.

Claim 51 (Previously presented): The polarizing electrode according to claim 43, wherein a carbon content extracted by an extraction treatment using a hydrocarbon solvent is 0.2 wt% or less.

Claim 52 (Withdrawn-Currently amended): A method for manufacturing [[a]] the polarizing electrode for an electrical double layer capacitor according to claim 36, comprising:

subjecting an easily graphitizable carbonaceous material to an alkali activation treatment;

washing the alkali activation treatment product thus obtained with an acidic aqueous solution containing an oxidizing agent to give the activated carbon; and

preparing the polarizing electrode by mixing and forming the resulting activated carbon, at least one binder and a conductive material, wherein

the easily graphitizable carbonaceous material is one selected from the group consisting of a petroleum coke, a petroleum pitch, a synthetic mesophase pitch, a polyvinyl chloride, a polyimide and a polyacrylonitrile.

Claim 53 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 52, wherein an activation assistant in the alkali activation treatment is sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide or a mixture of sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide.

Claim 54 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 52, wherein said acidic aqueous solution comprises hydrochloric acid.

Claim 55 (Withdrawn-Currently amended): A method for manufacturing [[a]] the polarizing electrode for an electrical double layer capacitor according to claim 43, comprising:

subjecting an easily graphitizable carbonaceous material to an alkali activation treatment,

washing the alkali activation treatment product thus obtained with water of 60 to 90°C,

washing the water washed product with hydrochloric acid of 60 to 90°C, and

washing the hydrochloric acid washed product with water in that order to give the activated carbon, and

preparing the polarizing electrode by mixing and forming the washed activated carbon, at least one binder and a conductive material, wherein the easily graphitizable carbonaceous material is one selected from the group consisting of a petroleum coke, a petroleum pitch, a synthetic mesophase pitch, a polyvinyl chloride, a polyimide and a polyacrylonitrile.

Claim 56 (Withdrawn): A method for manufacturing [[a]] the polarizing electrode for an electrical double layer capacitor according to claim 43, comprising:

subjecting an easily graphitizable carbonaceous material to an alkali activation treatment;

washing the alkali activation treatment product with water of 60 to 90°C;

washing the water washed product with carbonated water;

washing the carbonated water washed product with hydrochloric acid of 60 to 90°C;

washing the hydrochloric acid washed product with aqueous ammonia;

washing the aqueous ammonia washed product with water of 60 to 90°C in that order to give the activated carbon; and

preparing the polarizing electrode by mixing and forming the activated carbon, at least one binder and a conductive material; wherein

the easily graphitizable carbonaceous material is one selected from the group consisting of a petroleum coke, a petroleum pitch, a synthetic mesophase pitch, a polyvinyl chloride, a polyimide and a polyacrylonitrile.

Claim 57 (Withdrawn): A method for manufacturing [[a]] the polarizing electrode for an electrical double layer capacitor according to claim 43, comprising:

subjecting an easily graphitizable carbonaceous material to an alkali activation treatment;

washing the alkali activation treatment product thus obtained with water of 60 to 90°C;

washing the water washed product with carbonated water;

washing the carbonated water washed product with hydrochloric acid of 60 to 90°C,

washing the hydrochloric acid washed product with aqueous ammonia;

washing the aqueous ammonia washed product with hydrochloric acid of 60 to 90°C;

washing the hydrochloric acid washed product with water of 60 to 90°C in that order to give the activated carbon; and

preparing the polarizing electrode by mixing and forming the activated carbon, at least one binder and a conductive material.

Claim 58 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 56, wherein an activation assistant in the alkali activation treatment is sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide or a mixture of sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide.

Claim 59 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 56, wherein a concentration of said hydrochloric acid is from 0.5 to 3 N.

Claim 60 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 57, wherein an activation assistant in the alkali activation treatment is sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide or a mixture of sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide.

Claim 61 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 57 wherein the concentration of said hydrochloric acid is from 0.5 to 3.0 N.